Losses in purchase of Enron's Shares

3190. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil fields of Mukta, Panna and Tapti has been explored successfully by M/s. Enron Ltd. with the help of ONGC;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Enron is now selling its stake of 30 per cent to ONGC and other PSU refineries; and

(c) whether Government would lose crores of rupees in the deal and if so, the reasons therefor for buying the stake of Enron?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Contractor under the two Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for Panna Mukta field and South and Mid-Tapti fields is the consortium comprising Enron Oil & Gas India Ltd. (EOGIL), a 100% subsidiary of Enron, USA; Reliance Industries Ltd. and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). EOGIL as operator under the two PSCs has implemented the initial development plans for these fields. British Gas (BG) and Enron have informed the Government that entire share of EOGIL has been purchased by BG.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

Safety of Indo-Iran gas pipeline

†3191. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposed gas pipeline project from Iran to India; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take for safety of the said gas pipeline as it would pass through Pakistan?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran have set up an Indo-Iran Joint Committee to examine all the options to import natural gas to India from Iran through pipeline including on-Iand and off-shore deep water pipeline outside the continental shelf margin of Pakistan. The consortium led by M/s Snamprogetti-Saipem of Italy has been awarded to conduct feasibility study for deep water pipeline. The Joint Committee is in the process of undertaking feasibility study for on-Iand gas pipeline. Provision of safety measures for the proposed gas pipeline depends on the Techno-Economic Feasibility Reports.

Cost of small size cylinder

3192. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have implemented its "Inprinciple" proposal to allow Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to market 5 kg. LPG cylinders; and

(b) whether Government arc going to price it so as to make such cylinders economical for the poorer sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The proposal is yet to be implemented.

(b) The pricing of 5 kg. LPG cylinder is yet to be finalised.